

robbed them of their dear little daughter, Viola, who died last Monday after a very brief illness.

Our Junior and Regular Young People's Societies are manifesting a fair interest in their respective lines of work. The Sunday School has been well attended this year and a deeper interest in the study of lessons is taken by teachers and scholars.

We recently lost one of our most helpful workers, by Sister Belle Sterling resigning her position as a teacher in the public schools of our city and returning to her home at Masontown, Pa. Sister Belle has had charge of the primary department of our school for a number of years. She is much interested in the work herself and is quite successful with infant classes; the children all love her. Her mantle has fallen upon the shoulders of our young Brother Harry Bole. Harry is a talented earnest worker, and gives promise of a successful teacher in the primary department. He also is president of our Young People's Society at the present time.

One of the most encouraging features of our school at this time is the young men's class in charge of Brother W. Z. Replogle, who also is our assistant superintendent. He has enrolled in this class the names of some thirty young men between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five since the first of January. For the better accommodation of this class, we are having one of the rear rooms of the church rearranged and furnished in a suitable manner. This will also relieve the somewhat crowded condition of the main room.

The Home Department under the efficient supervision of Sister Sarah Cough and her assistants is gradually extending its lines and influence. It now has a membership of over sixty persons who do not, or cannot attend the school's sessions but are willing to give the lesson one half hour's study during each week. Among those who united with the church during the present year, are some who were first awakened to the need of a Savior and salvation through the work of this department. I am personally very much concerned regarding the awakening of a deeper interest in all of the Brethren schools of Pennsylvania. Every school in the state in which Brethren are interested should endeavor to be able to show an increased attendance and interest over last year's work by report at coming Convention. I sincerely hope that every Brethren school and every union school in which Brethren are interested will not fail to have as complete a report as possible of the work that is being done sent to our next Convention.

ALBERT TRENT.

April 29, 1900.

Bethel, Ind.

There has not been anything said through the paper about this congregation for some time, so I will send a few items. We are not working very rapidly here but we hope surely. There has been one more accession by baptism since our last report, and we en-

joyed one of the most orderly communions on the evening of the 23rd inst. that it has been our privilege to attend for many a day.

The church seems to be in a healthy condition spiritually, but sorry to say, physically there has for some time been considerable sickness among our dear brethren. We hope and pray that this state of things may not continue much longer. We so much miss those prominent brethren who would but cannot attend the church services.

ROANOKE

We are making our semi-monthly visits to the Roanoke congregation, and altho that congregation has had its gloomy season we hope the cause is looking up a little. Brother R. K. Binkley is back from Alabama and has been in attendance at our two last appointments. Brother Dr. B. L. Gordon and wife of Gobleville, Ind., attended our Easter service and also cast their membership with the Roanoke congregation. How glad we were to welcome such worthy members as Brother and Sister Gordon among us.

The Easter offerings have been taken in both congregations and will no doubt be reported by Brother Miller. The little that was given was I believe given freely, to help our worthy Brother Ditch along with the noble work assigned him. Our State Conference did a grand work, both in the selection of her evangelist and in the work assigned him. It was a step in the right direction to have him to look after the needs of weak and discouraged congregations.

J. H. SWIHART.

The State of Idaho

A LETTER FROM BASHOR

*Editor Evangelist:* Thinking it would be of interest to many of our brethren to know something of the state of Idaho, I have concluded to give you an occasional letter from the various sections of the state I may visit. While we are talking of foreign missions, missions in the city and district evangelistic work, there are sections all over this great Western Empire where our people and doctrine are scarcely known and where both would receive a hearty welcome. I am located permanently for the summer at Weiser, the Metropolis of the great Weiser Valley and the point of outlet for the Devil Mountain mining country. The Weiser and Payette Valleys are among the richest farming and fruit raising sections of the United States.

I am this week at Payette, the commercial center of the Payette Valley. A few of our brethren live a few miles east of here. I expect to meet them shortly. There are quite a number of German Baptist brethren here, some of whom I have met and found them invariably prosperous and well pleased with the country. There are the finest orchards here I have ever seen, not excepting those of the Yakima Valley, Washington.

What Brethren Harrison, Rowland and Lichty have done for our people at Sunny Side, Washington, can be done here at Payette.

Land here is reasonable, both raw and cultivated. The markets are the best I have seen in the west, as the towns and fast growing mining camps buy all that is raised and at exceptionally good prices. The yield from orchards of apricots, pears, apples, prunes, cherries, peaches, etc., is beyond the most sanguinary dreams of men who have not seen the crops on the trees. One man, a Mr. Broderson sold last year \$4000 worth of fruit from an eight year old orchard of 40 acres. As high as \$600 worth of melons and cantelopes are sold from an acre of land, but \$300 is about the average sale of melons from an acre. Peanuts 100 bushels an acre. Alfalfa hay 5 to 8 tons to the acre. And all farm produce at a like yield. Hay always sells to the sheep and cattle men at from \$4 to \$16 per ton in the stack. Farmers who came here only five and six years ago with a thousand or two capital are in excellent financial shape to-day. Land purchased at \$20 an acre now will bring in five or six years, when the orchard is in bearing from \$250 to \$400 an acre. And the farmer will not only make a living, but a good income from melons and berries raised between the trees while his orchard is growing.

The climate is fine, not overly cold in winter nor too hot in summer. Fruit, melons and berries are shipped east and sold at a good profit to the raiser. Mr. A. E. Word of Payette has shown me over the valley and given me much valuable information. He is a reliable Christian gentleman and I think would furnish any of our brethren with accurate information of the country; or any of the brethren who write me will receive the best information I can give. I am not engaged in the land business and have no land for sale, but I think our people could find a congenial home here, and if some of them will come they can not only do better than in the east with the same amount of capital, but can aid in building up good churches of our faith.

My permanent address is Weiser, Idaho. The way to reach here is over the Union Pacific to Granger or Salt Lake and then over the Oregon short line to this place, or Payette fourteen miles east of here.

Peas are in bloom now around Payette, and strawberries nearly full grown. Schools are good, society as good as anywhere, the climate fine, and opportunities for home and church building the best imaginable. I think my family will come out this summer or fall and we will make this our future home. I would like to see our brethren who are thinking of the west come this way.

S. H. BASHOR.

Weiser, Idaho, May 4, 1900.

Hudson, Iowa

Our annual business meeting was held Monday, March 26, with a goodly number of the members of the church present. All business passed off harmoniously. Brother E. L. Hildebrand was again called to serve